

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Examiner's Office Action dated November 3, 2004, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3 and 5 in order to more clearly define the claimed subject matter without adding new matter and in full compliance with the statutory requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 as indicated below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner pointed out that the "A type weighted block" and "B type weighted block", recited in the claims, render the claims indefinite.

Accordingly, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to rectify the anomalies kindly pointed out by the Examiner, without adding any new matter. In particular, claim 3 has been amended to clarify the determining step and the decoding step, support for which is found in the specification on page 16, line 21 - page 18, line 23. Further, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended to define the A type weighted block of n bits as having a preselected number of "1" bits and "0" bits and the B type as having another preselected number of "1" and "0" bits, and adding the limitations of 'wherein both A type weighted block and its corresponding B type

weighted block are combined to form a balance coding block in which the bit number of "1" is equal to that of "0", support for which is found in the specification on page 9, lines 5-16. Therefore, it is believed that the terms "A type weighted block" and "B type weighted block" are not indefinite any more. Furthermore, as claims 2, 4 and 6 are depending on claims 1, 3 and 5, respectively, it is also believed that the claims 2, 4 and 6 are no longer indefinite.

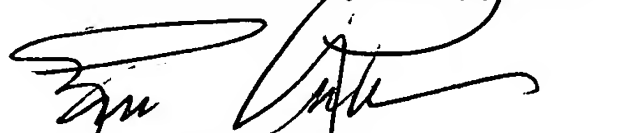
Accordingly, it is believed that the above amendments made to the claims have removed the grounds for the 112 rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicants now respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn and that claims 1-6 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussion, he is kindly invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Associate Attorney for Applicant,



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Dated: January 31, 2005

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 31, 2005.



Audrey de Souza